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THE PREPARATION OF CONTRACTS AND CONVEYANCES, WITH FORMS AND PROBLEMS. By Henry Winthrop Ballantine. New York: The Macmillan Co. 1921. Pp. vii, 227.

There always has been considerable advocacy, both in and out of law schools, for some real effort to give the law student during his law course some training and equipment in the preparation of legal documents. There is, of course, the difference of opinion as to whether the limited time available in the usual three year course can be made use of profitably, even in small part, by such "practical" work. In addition there has been the difficulty of suitable material for the basis of such course. It is not unlikely that Professor Ballantine's book had its beginnings in the author's effort to provide his students with material for work along this line.

The aim of the author has been to set forth in a general way the problems that are apt to arise and therefore should be in the mind of the draughtsman, whether he be lawyer or business man, in the preparation of conveyances, contracts, wills, etc., with suggestions as to methods of meeting these difficulties by the provisions of the instrument. There are added statements of situations calling upon the student to draw documents carrying out the desire of the characters, and not infrequently there are sample instruments taken from actual litigation for study and criticism. The last chapter contains a brief discussion of the examination of abstracts of title with a form of abstract for study and preparation of an opinion of title for an imaginary client. In those schools giving the so-called practical course in office practice and preparation of documents the book will be found very useful, if not as the basis of the course at least as a guide and reference. The lawyer, particularly the inexperienced, will find the book extremely valuable for its suggestions and particularly as a means of checking up the completeness of a document.

The book involves the same difficulty and raises the same dangers as may be found in any book which may be thought by the inexperienced an adequate substitute for a competent lawyer. Last of all would Professor Ballantine claim that his book rendered consultation with an attorney superfluous. In the preface he says: "The practical suggestions and forms here given for the preparation of legal documents are not intended to enable the business man, the banker or the notary to draw documents or to dispense with competent legal advice. They are intended primarily for the law student and the lawyer for ready reference, but they should also be useful to the student of business law and the business man as a warning of the pitfalls which beset him in business transactions and the precautions that should be taken." A book on anatomy and hygiene may be very helpful even if it does not make the physician unnecessary; the sensible reader would probably be only the better able to recognize a situation calling for medical attention.

The statements in the book, generally speaking, are accurate and therefore dependable. Criticisms along this line must be directed to omissions

and incompleteness rather than positive error. Here again there need be no difficulty so long as it is realized that the book is merely what it purports to be.

RALPH W. AIGLER.

THE BRITISH YEAR BOOK OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, 1921-22. Second Year of Issue. London: Henry Frowde and Hodder & Stoughton. 1921. Pp. viii, 272.

It was the reviewer's privilege, less than a year ago, to review in this journal the first volume of the new British Year Book of International Law. See 19 MICH. L. REV. 766. The second volume amply justifies the anticipations which were aroused by the appearance of the first. More than ever an excellent series seems assured.

The second volume includes fourteen short articles. Among them we find a summary discussion of recent tendencies in prize court procedure and also some sensible reflections on the problem of sovereignty. There are other short papers written primarily to arouse interest in such subjects as air law, submarine cables, and the effect of war on treaties. Protectorates, mandates, freedom of navigation on the Rhine, and the Permanent Court of International Justice are considered briefly. Mr. T. C. Wade contributes a first-rate little historical study on "The Roll De Superioritate Maris Angliae." "Judicial Recognition of States and Governments, and the Immunity of Public Ships" by Mr. Arnold D. McNair and "Exterritoriality in China and the Question of Its Abolition" by M. T. Z. Tyau are articles of permanent value and are probably the best contained in this issue. Special mention should be made also of Reginald Berkeley's admirable survey of "The Work of the League of Nations." The present reviewer has seen nothing in print which presents the subject so effectively within the compass of a short paper. It is not too much to say that the article deserves to be read by everyone.

The articles in this second issue are more numerous and cover a wider field than those which appeared in the first, but unfortunately they are also more ephemeral in character. There is nothing of the permanent value of "The British Prize Courts and the War" by Sir Erle Richards, "The Legal Position of Merchantmen in Foreign Ports and National Waters" by Mr. A. H. Charteris, or the anonymous article on "The League of Nations and the Laws of War" which appeared in last year's volume. On the other hand, the usual features of a year book have been much expanded and improved as compared with the issue of last year. A department of notes and another devoted to book reviews have been added. The notes include two Belgian prize court decisions and an award of the British-American Pecuniary Claims Commission. It is a satisfaction to note that the editors contemplate publishing further awards of the Claims Commission in later volumes. The list of international agreements and the bibliography are much more complete than those of last year.